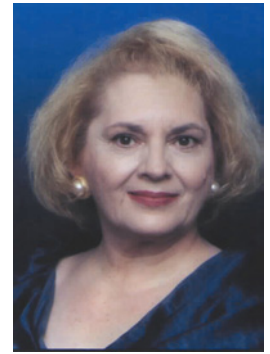


SENATOR ROSE ANN ANTICH-CARR
ASSISTANT DEMOCRATIC CAUCUS CHAIR



Antich-Carr Proposals

I look forward to working with my colleagues this session to advance many of my initiatives. The following bills are just a few of the proposals I have introduced.

SB 37 provides the Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission (IURC) with broader access to records of an affiliate of an electric or a gas utility. Currently, when NIPSCO requests a proposed rate increase, the IURC is required to examine NIPSCO's financial records, but lacks the authority to examine the records of NIPSCO's parent company, NISOURCE. This bill would impose the same requirements on all of NIPSCO-owned subsidiaries as well.

SB 40 pertains to felons convicted of certain crimes who are required, upon their release from prison, to be included on Indiana's Sex and Violent Offender Registry. This measure adds to the list of individuals required to register by including those who have been convicted of the murder of a person less than 18 years of age.

SB 39 would make the endangered Karner blue butterfly the state's official insect. I have introduced this legislation on behalf of the students of Porter County elementary schools.

SB 36 would require group insurance plans for public employees, group insurers and HMOs to provide coverage for annual exams of women at least 18 years old, and another bill would require these same insurers to provide bone density testing for women at least 45 years old.

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Dear Friends:

I would like to take this opportunity to inform you of a few of the issues confronting legislators as we begin the 114th Indiana General Assembly in January.

How to fund public schools, provide relief for Hoosiers most affected by rising health care costs, enhance economic development initiatives, retrain our workforce and create more jobs are just a few of the issues to be considered as we work together to make Indiana an even better place to live, work and raise our families.

Crafting a new state budget for the next two fiscal years will top the legislative agenda. Although we have managed to maintain solid reserves throughout the national recession, the state is facing a gap between expected spending and projected revenues. The key to managing the budget will be to cut spending by finding new efficiencies, consolidating agencies, and eliminating ineffective programs. Vital services and education funding must be protected, or else Indiana will begin to lose its ability to develop economically and grow our way out of the current fiscal situation.

As your State Senator, it is my job to communicate to the General Assembly the issues that matter most to you. Many of the new laws will in some way affect all of us, our families and our communities. Please contact me by phone, mail or email, and let me know your thoughts and concerns. The legislative process works best when citizens get involved. I look forward to hearing from you.

Wishing you a healthy and prosperous New Year,

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REPRESENTING SENATE DISTRICT 4 INCLUDING CROWN POINT, MERRILLVILLE, HOBART, SCHERERVILLE, ROSS AND ST. JOHN TOWNSHIPS IN LAKE COUNTY, AND JACKSON, LIBERTY, PINE, PORTAGE, UNION, WESTCHESTER AND CENTER TOWNSHIPS IN PORTER COUNTY

Issues confronting education



Senator Antich-Carr in committee.

Legislators will be dealing with a host of education issues this year. While creating a new state budget plan, fiscal members will examine one of its biggest components - **education funding**. There will be renewed efforts to provide adequate funding for school corporations based on each community's needs and challenges.

*K-12 Education
accounts for 36%
of Indiana's
annual budget.*

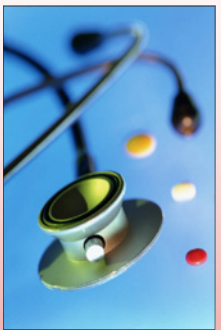
How to continue progress on **school standards and accountability** given the state's budget restrictions will also be a dominate issue. The federal No Child Left Behind Act, which requires the implementation of higher standards and greater teacher accountability, has never been fully funded by the federal government forcing the state to dip into its own reserves.

Last year, knowing the importance of **early childhood learning opportunities**, legislators came close to passing a comprehensive program to expand optional full-day kin-

dergarten and other early education programs. Regrettably, agreement could not be reached on how to fund the initiative. Consequently, this school year only 6,000 students attend full-day kindergarten statewide, although there are more than 500,000 Hoosiers under the age of six. It is my hope that this initiative will be re-introduced and receive further consideration. Also, lawmakers may consider a different approach that would move the current kindergarten enrollment eligibility date from July 1 to September 1.

The **Indiana Statewide Testing for Educational Progress Plus** test (ISTEP+) is a tool used to assess the educational progress of students in grades 3, 6, 8, and 10. The test is currently given in the fall so teachers can continue to work with students in areas that need more attention. Legislation may be considered to move the test to the spring to better assess what students have learned. Opponents feel that conducting the test in the spring would leave little time to address problems.

Focus On: HEALTH CARE



The rising cost of health care will undoubtedly receive much attention this session. As many as 600,000 Hoosiers are without health insurance coverage. Many of these individuals are employed by small businesses that cannot afford to provide coverage.

A governor's task force has been developing a plan designed to reduce the growing number of Hoosiers with no health insurance. The "Hoosier Health Plan" recommends the pooling of small businesses and individuals who are self-employed to provide them with affordable health care under a bulk-purchasing plan with competitive rates. The state received federal funding to support the startup of the program, but it will be up to the new administration and the General Assembly to determine how to use the grant for pilot programs.

**"As many as
600,000 Hoosiers
are without health
insurance coverage."**

Being able to provide quality, affordable health insurance to many of Indiana's uninsured is more than a health care or insurance issue. It also relates to economic development and jobs. The majority of Indiana businesses are small, and their success is being threatened by rising health care costs. Many small businesses are finding it increasingly difficult to keep employees because of the financial burden health care has become.

Legislators are also expected to consider legislation to allow small businesses to join the state's new bulk prescription drug purchasing program which was established by the 2004 General Assembly. The program created a pool of more than 400,000 state, local, and public university employees to increase the state's buying power and the ability to negotiate lower prescription drug costs. Under a bill to be introduced in 2005, legislators will be considering the possibility of expanding the pool to include small businesses, county hospitals and non-profit organizations.

2005 Legislative Survey

You may also complete this survey on-line at www.in.gov/S4

Feel free to have another family member respond to questions in column #2.

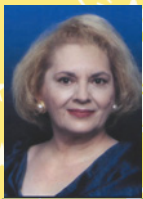
Respondent
#1

Respondent
#2

- | | | |
|--|--|--|
| 1. Should Indiana join several other states in a new drug-import program to make cheaper prescription drugs available from Canada and Europe, despite a federal ban on the imports? | 1. Support <input type="checkbox"/>
Oppose <input type="checkbox"/> | 1. Support <input type="checkbox"/>
Oppose <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2. Currently 15 of 92 counties observe daylight-saving time during the spring and summer months. This includes Lake and Porter counties. Would you support legislation to move the other 77 counties to daylight-saving time putting the entire state on the same time part of the year as proposed by the new governor? | 2. Support <input type="checkbox"/>
Oppose <input type="checkbox"/> | 2. Support <input type="checkbox"/>
Oppose <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3. Should riverboat gaming revenue be utilized for property tax relief? | 3. Support <input type="checkbox"/>
Oppose <input type="checkbox"/> | 3. Support <input type="checkbox"/>
Oppose <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 4. When NIPSCO requests a rate increase, the company must go before the Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission (IURC), which conducts a review of its books and records to determine current profits. Should the IURC be granted the authority to also review the books and records of NIPSCO's parent company, NISOURCE, and NIPSCO-owned subsidiaries before granting a rate increase? | 4. Support <input type="checkbox"/>
Oppose <input type="checkbox"/> | 4. Support <input type="checkbox"/>
Oppose <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 5. Currently in Indiana, low-income pregnant women receive Medicaid assistance. Soon after the birth, however, this assistance is terminated for the mother only, leaving the mother without family planning services and/or contraceptives. Many of these women are single, and statistics indicate that without family planning services, this could lead to more pregnancies, more babies born with health problems and escalate our Medicaid costs. Considering these facts, would you support legislation to allow for the extension of family planning services? | 5. Support <input type="checkbox"/>
Oppose <input type="checkbox"/> | 5. Support <input type="checkbox"/>
Oppose <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 6. Legislation may be considered to allow public funding of school vouchers permitting parents to send their children to the school of their choice. Should language be included to specify that students only be permitted to transfer to a school within the boundaries: (select one option) | 6. | 6. |
| a. of the city or town where the student resides? | a. <input type="checkbox"/> | a. <input type="checkbox"/> |
| b. of the school district where the student resides? | b. <input type="checkbox"/> | b. <input type="checkbox"/> |
| c. I do not support school vouchers. | c. <input type="checkbox"/> | c. <input type="checkbox"/> |

Additional Comments: _____

Thank you very much for taking the time to complete this survey. Your opinions are very important to me!



State Senator Rose Ann Antich-Carr

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Stay Informed

To keep you up-to-date on the many issues being considered by the Indiana General Assembly, I will be distributing brief updates discussing the challenges we face here in Indiana. If you are interested in receiving the updates, please check the appropriate box.

- ☐ Please send legislative updates by mail to my home address.
- ☐ Please send legislative updates by Email. Subscribe online now at s4@in.gov or clearly print your email address here _____
- ☐ I am not interested at this time.

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Antich-Carr '05 Legislative Survey Response

Please tape or staple here. Thank you.